WILMINGTON, N. C., FEB. 11, 1865.

Now that the conference between our commissioners and the President and Secretary of State of the United States is over and has resulted in effecting nothing directly towards peace, it may not be out of place to see shether it may not have effected something indirectly.

It is perfectly evident that from the first announcement that a conference was to take place until the conberence had taken place, no other subject occupied anything like the same prominent place in the public mind of the United States, as well as of the Confederacy .-Prople reasoned with themselves that the chances were largely opposed to any prebability of peace from this movement, but all that would not and could not prevent their minds from dwelling upon that one engrossing topic. If we are anxious for peace, so are the Northern people. If we are disappointed by the failare of this attempt at negotiation, so, no doubt, are they. We will venture to say that the matter was discussed, canvassed, wished for in every circle in Philadelphia. Boston or New York, just about as earnestly but then, it will be too fate. and as anxiously as it was in Confederate circles in Richmond, Wilmington, Charleston or Mobile.

The minds of the people of both countries have been felt in both countries.

the late movements have given Tice.

We fear very much that the enemy has succeeded in striking the line of the South Carolina Railroad at Branchville or at some point west of Branchville.

The importance of this event can hardly be overestimated, especially now that the port of Wilmington is closed by the capture of Fort Fisher, and no more supplies for General Lee's army can be brought in

The great importance of the South Carolina Railroad west of Branchville arises from the fact that it connecting Virginia and the Carolinas with Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Mississippi. We how any supplies can be brought from the Southwest for Lee's army, and we don't know whether Virginia and North Carolina can feed that army and support their own population. This is a most important question involving neither more nor less than our continued ability to hold Richmond and Petersburg for we suppose it is no news to any one to be informed that speculations have been indulged in as to the possibility of General Lee, in a certain contingency falling back upon Tennessee. That contingency has not yet arisen, nor is its occurrence regarded as very probable

This question of the employment of colored troops to our armies is tast looming up into importance, and promises soon to engross the attention of the whole

it is a very delicate question, and requires to be han-

died cantiously and thoughtfully. Few of us can take in all its ultimate consequences at one glance. can all see that it involves a sacrifice, but considered as a mere question of property, not a greater sacrifica than we are willing to make for independence. But it as not a mere question of property. It is a social question. It implies a social revolution, the consequences of which we can but dimly foresee. And even then, if pause ito ask ourselves the question as to whether we are called upon to make will our independence. Can we venmeasure with safety. Have we any assurance that our new allies would respond to the call made upon them? Would they fight for us?-

may other man," no matter how white his bair or pa- | Sherman, no line is necessarily safe because of its locaproverb, Montes parturiunt, et nascitur ridiculus mus in this State. The mountains were in labor and brought forth a contemptible mouse. By the way, the last two words is next to useless to talk about holding any line or any hardly need translating. They do very well as they are, point. If this force can be mustered and rallied to the for sure enough this mountain has brought forth a ri- repulse of Sherman and the checking of his career, it

It won the whole we must think it better that the question of peace negotiations was disposed of so prompily. Better that there should be no delay or doubt about it than that Mesers. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell should have been carried to Washington and amused there, while the people were kept in suspense, and their attention distracted from the inevitable necessity of the hour. It appears to us that Seward was unusually frank, or unusually incautious in putting so speedy an end to the farce, as well as in his admission of the prob-" rebellion " is " crushed out." There is either a great deal of confidence or a great deal of bravado in the whole affair, and which it is we are unable to say .-Soward is astute, but not always as diplomatic or as cautious as he might be.

Wa find nothing in the Charleston or Columbia papers calculated to throw any additional light upon Sherman's movements. We have no Augusta papers which would seem to add confirmation to the report of the enemy having struck the South Carolina Railroad

between Branchville and Augusta. We find the following startling item from the seacoast of our cwn State in yesterday's Goldsboro' Jour-

From our Kinston Correspondence.

KINSTON, Feb. 8. Editor State Journal The news from below is startling. A gentleman who arrived here at daylight reports that the enemy have landed

Milmington Iournal.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA-WILMINGTON. N. C., THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 16, 1865. \ NO. 21.

probably continue to do so, so long as the enemy puts them in the army and we do not. In this difference we have our main guarantee for their fidelity. Remove

this guarantee and what other have we? We may say-we may feel-yea, we may know that we are truer friends of the colored race than the enemy, but that knowledge or belief on our part is not all that is needed. The colored race must share that impression - must be led to feel that this is their country, and that they have an interest in fighting for it. Can we feel any assurance of this. We offer them freed an after the war as the reward of their services in the The enemy offers it immediately to all. In any case the boon is a doubtful one, but by offering it as a reward-an inducement for service-we virtually admit that it is a boon, and the negroes will be led to so consider it. Will they be disposed to take it from up as a contingency ofter the war, or from the Yankees at once? It is true, once in the hands of the enemy, they will find what sort of freedom they will get from them.

It is true that with freedom, we may offer the negro the priviledge of a continued residence in the country and upon the soil of his birth, with the climate the turned towards peace, and they will no a return to war suits his temperament and constitution, but will not the with less alacrity and less relish. Conscription or the Yankees promise the same and more by way of an offdraft will be less popular than ever, and will be endur- set to any inducements we may hold out to secure the with less patience, and we have no doubt but this fidelity of the negro? It will cost the Yankee govern decay of patience will be felt even more strongly at the | ment nothing to promise lands and other configurated North than at the South, although for a time it will be property of Southern people, and it is probable that the negroes will be fools enough to believe them.

There will be fresh demonstrations by party leaders | Descritons are now the bane of our armies and at the North, in the hope and with the view of getting | threaten to work the ruin of our country. Deserters up another war luror, and some of those Democrats or are not simply guilty of sins of omission by being ab-Copperheads who have so far, for their own party pur- sent from the ranks that defend the country; but they poses, affected great devotion to States Rights and are almost always guilty of sins of commission in pre-Constitutional guarantees, will now suddenly experience | venting cultivation and committing acts of robbery and a change, and find themselves converted to the war destruction, and men cannot be spared to repress these and subjugation policy; but that will not remove from outrages and compel the return of these men to their swelled if two hundred thousand reluctant negroes are to be armed and placed in the ranks to contribute their quota? Is it not to be feared that every swamp will be a lair-a lurking place of deserters of every bue ?-What safety will there be for property ?-what chance for cultivation when the most able bodied laborers are taken away from the ranks of the producers to whom

they will be liable to become a terror. We do not include in our calculation the mere question of property as property. Where the lives of the best and bravest are daily and hourly exposed, we do net see what extra sanctity can hedge in any mere question of property. The question takes in simply the practicability of the scheme-the probability of its success, and the consequences likely to flow from or accompany it. We confess that there may be considerations that we have overlooked, or we may have at tached undae weight to the unfavorable aspects of the question, but however that may be, candor compels up to say that our reflections have not as yet had the ef fect of commending the measure to our judgment. The more we look at the thing, the more strongly does our mind revert to its first conclusion. The fidelity the negro is secured to as by not putting him in the certain'y not imminent, but by no means impossible. army, while the enemy does. The carrying out of the measure of arming our negroes would, we fear, result in a speedy crop of deserters of the most dangerous

> considerations above offered with all due humility .-They may be mistaken, still they are our views-not the result of prejudice, but of reflection, and are given for what they may be worth.

Wa do not think that even the fact that Sherman or some of his forces has reached the South Carolina Railroad necessarily implies a stoppage of communication between the Carolinas and the South West. It is willing to take the risk of this revolution we must true there will be a short gap, but not as long as most people imagine, and the new route will be an interior and much safer route than the present, not dependent further the object we have in view—the even upon the possession by us of the city of Augusta, although of course that would be important from other

We need not indicate this route, although indeed we cannot suppose that by doing so we would be giving Would they be faithful to the Confederate banner with any information to the enemy. An inspection of the scanty rations and tattered shoes, while the enemy of- railroad map will show two points in upper Georfered them full bellies and whole clothes? What in- gia and upper South Carolina where branches as appoints Tuesday, February 7th, 1865, a day of adjournducements could we hold out to insure the fidelity of one from the Georgia Road and the other from the negro soldiers? At any rate what new inducement? South Carolina Railroad approach each other much Let us reflect upon all these things. Let us analyze more nearly than the Railroad systems of the two them fairly and fully, looking them straight in the face States approach each other at Columbia and Augusta. and not deceiving ourselves in any way. We must do The distance from Columbia to Augusta is probably so. The issue is upon us, and will not be dodged .- about seventy-five miles. The distance between the Upon its proper solution the most momentous conse- points referred to would not probably be much more than half that length. Of course, with moveable We rather think that neither Francis P. Blair, "nor leolumns and an enterprising and powerful enemy like triarchal his appearance will be able again to fool our ties, but the line of which we have been speaking is and Seward; and people at Richmond by plausible talk about reace, about as safe as any line can be, and as capable of dewithout authority or the shadow of authority or even fence. With an efficient wagon train the transporta- peop'e of this Confederacy shall make an unconditional warrant in any request made by Lincoln, if the latter is | tion on the short gap could be maintained quite as efto be believed. Surely we may quote the old Latin | fectually as it is over the unfortunate Piedmont Road

> But without a sufficient force of determined men, it will do very much towards encouraging the people everywhere throughout the Confederacy-nor will its effect be less marked or less valuable at the North .-It will dispel the vain delusions of conquest and subjugation, under which the people there so generally

> JOHNSON'S COMMON ECHOOL ARITHMETIC. Raleigh,

N. C., BRANSON P. FARRAR. 1864. This book is designed for beginners, embracing the first principles of the science. It has 154 small octavo pages, fairly got up and firmly bound, and is sold at ability of foreign complications likely to arise after the \$4 50. It seems to us well calculated to answer the purpose for which it is designed.

> NEITHER Lincoln nor Seward would consent to negotiate, but we feel pretty certain that they offered to treat, for both of them like a little old rye.

> Ir seems to us that the weather last night was quite cold. Don't know when we felt it colder. Fire did not seem to have any power to heat a room.

General Lee's army is to be paid off as soon as the noney for that purpose can be distributed. The Richmond Enquirer of Monday, the 6th inst. has the following item :

Foreign Recognition, We learn that the evening edition of the Baltimore "American" of Friday was received in this city on yester-day, which states that the Federal Government has been notified that its existence will only be recognized, after 28,000 troops at Morehead City, with five locomotives and the 4th of March, as far as its actual civil authority exrailroad from sufficient to lay thirty miles of track. The tends, and that the separate nationality of the Confederate est favors gratefully received." was the merry response States will be recognized upon the same principle.

As a general rule our negroes prove faithful, and will GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

A bill to amend the charter of the Piedmont Bailread (so as to cause an extension of the guage of said road to a width of five feet, to correspond with that of the Richmond and Danville Bailroad) being before the Senate, Mr. Hall moved to amend by requiring the Piedmont Railroad Company to restore the present guage within six mouths af er the termination of the war, under penalty of a forfeiture of their charter, which amendment was adopted, and the rules being suspended by a vo'e of year 31, mays 1, the bill, as amended, was put upon its second and third readings and passed the same.

Bills to re-arrange the public offices in the capitol, and o incorporate the Bilt Falls Toll Bridge | empany, and reselutions in favor of the Old Deminion Trading Company, and the State Commissioners to Richmond were passed. The salary and fees bill was taken up and discussed, and pending an announcement of the action of the House on Senate amendments therete, the Senate adjourned to 3

AFTERNOON SESSION. The consideration of the unfinished business-being the bill to authorize the removal of State troops beyond the

limits of the State in certain contingencies -was resumed. Mr Dick proceeded to address the Senate in continua tion of his remarks on Saturday last on that subject, defi-He was, he would say, emphatically a prace man. Parliament. he spoke f rpeace, he voted for peace, he acted at all times for the liberties of the people. The Senator from Columbus (Mr. Ellis) was for war, speaking, voting, setting, and to act for war. Continuing his remarks at some sough, purpose to resign. Mr. D. olesed by saying he feered the Senate of Morth Cacolina would not meet again, for if meeting, be but a frag- FROM THE UNITED STATES, -NORTHERN REPORTS

mentary assemblage of the one great commonwealth. Mr. Hall said he cared nothing for the bill. There was no Home Guard to be effected by it.-they had all been exempted by the General Assembly, and in all the State east of the Blue Ridge the Adja'ant General could only gather ogether about sine hundred men. For himself he was an original secessionist, he believed himself right then, he believed himself right now. . (Applause.) We were not conendured every extremity, and should we yield to the adversity they had so unflinebingly and successfully opposed On this question of what they would do, he wished the that sentiment, he would offer some resolutions [though he had but small hopes of their neeting acceptance, and here with he read resolutions, in substance, calling on the Military Committee te perfect and report measures to anthorze the sending of the Home Guards beyond the State, it necessary, to repeal Home Guard exemptions, to consolidate the Militia and Home Guards, to reduce supernumerament 20,000 negroes, to be employed in any manner it may

Mr. Odom hoped the bill would pass. He was in layour | units the North and Houth. of continuing the struggle and would send the Home the public defence. To surrender now was destruction. the bill. Not agreed to, year 17, nays 25.

Mr. Arendell moved to postpone the further consideration till the third Thursday in May next. Not agreed to Mr. Winstead moved the Senate adjourn till to-mor-

row morning, at 7 o'clock. Not agreed to yeas 14, nays

Not agreed to, yeas 27, nays 25. Mr. Winstead moved to adjourn till to night at 64 o'clock. Not agreed to, year 14, navs 17. br. Eilis said a vote might be had if the opponents of the bill would extend to the friends thereof the same couresy that had been shown them in postponing the consid-

eration of the matter of their accommodation.

Mr. Pool proceeded to discuss the bill, arguing against ts adoption at some length. Mr. Hall said he knew the position of the Senate but he wished the country to know it. The minority had it in their power to make the majority succumb, but they would not succumb till they had shown that when a measure that might assist the cause came up for action, that minorty had prevented its adoption. This bill might not be worth much in itself, but it was a straw that would show the way the wind blew, and let all know North Carolina would strike one honest blow bofore she tell, if fall s! e

Mr. Warren argued His Excellency the Governor, had no right to carry the Militia beyond the State, recapitalating the positions taken by him in a speech of some days

at 6 o'block, took a recess to 7 p. m. Er. Blair introduced a resolution proposing to send a message to the Senate, asking the concurrence of that

body in the removal of the seal of secrecy from late Legis lative proceedings, and to request the State Commissioners to prepare a report of their late mission to Richmond for publication in the newspapers of the State, which resolution was subsequently withdrawn. Mr. Dargan introduced a resolution in tayor of Messrs. Hall, Person, Pool and Carter, which, under a suspension

of the rules, passed its several readings. (Provides for re-

be sent the Senate, asking the concurrence of that body ast Wednesday in March next. In support of this resoluion Mr. C. proceeded to say that two questions of the day -the result of the commission to Washington and the movements of Sherman in the South-imperatively demanded the presence and consideration of the General As-

sembly. Not to remain in session for the purpose of se considering these matters would be, to be talse to every requirement of daty. and it was tabled by yeas 54, nays 35. Mr. Cowles introduced a resolution requesting His Ex cellency, the Governor to procure the return to their owncertain slaves held to labor on the fortifications at

Wilmington, the term of service stipulated for having ex- by our artillery shelling the enemy's lines. Both sides seemed disposed to make a stand on the north side of pired several months ago. Agreed to. Mr. Carter, on leave of the House, introduced a resolution to rescind so much of the joint order of adjournment ing the present session. Not agreed to, year 28, nays 53.

The bill to amend the Home Guard act being then under consideration. Mr. Phillips moved to amed by exempting from Home towns in the State. Not agreed to, yeas 13, nays 68. Mr. Gudger moved to amend by providing that no one shall be exempted from Home Guard duty in his own coun-

ty. Agreed to, yeas 52, nays 35. The Bill was then discussed, variously amended and pass ed its final reading. Mr. Person introduced the following WHEREAS, authentic intelligence has been received from Richmond that our Commissioners, Messrs. Stephens,

Campbell, and Hunter have returned from Fortress Monroe, after having held a conference with Messrs, Lincoln WHEREAS, it appears that the only terms of peace which have been offered by our enemics are that the States and submission to the Constitution and Laws of the United plex;.

WHEREAS, this offer was accompanied by an announcement that the question of allvery had already been disposed of by amendments to the Constitution just passed in the Federal Congress by which slavery has been abolished.

Resolved. That the acceptance of such offer is tantamount to subjugation; that these terms are incompatible with the dignity, henour, and safety of our people, and that there is left but one alternative to us-and that is to maintain the conflict with the invader till our independence is secured; and that all the energies of Government and people ought to be put in force in order to make our Messrs. Phillips and Henry deprecated hasty action in

missioners should have settled the authenticity of this telegraphic information. Mr. Grissom moved the preambles and resolution be re ferred to the Committee on Confederate Relations, but pending any action on the motion, the House adjourned till 3 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

continuance of the war, unless otherwise expressed, pay- large majority. able in currency, passed its third reading, year 56, nays A number of engrossed bills and resolutions were reselved from the Senate, and, on motion of Mr. Dargan, the House adjourned till 7 a. m., to-morrow.

THE SENATE VOTE .- The Senate having removed secrecy from its journal, we now give the vote of Senators on the important bill creating a General in-chief and the joint resolution for the reinstatement of Gener al Joseph E. Johnston :

Ayes—Messrs, Baker, Brown, Burnett, Caperton, Dortch, Garland, Gracam, Haynes, Henry, Hunter, Waldo P. Johnston, Maxwell, Oldham, Semmes, Smims, Sparrow, Vest, hall of the House of Delegates, and was addressed by Walker, Watson, Wigfall-20. Nues-Mesers. Barnwell and Hill-2.

Vote on the resolution requesting the President to reinstate General Johnston : Ayes Messrs. Brown, Burnett, Caperton, Portch, Garland, Graham, Haynes, Benry, Hunter, Waldo P. Johnston, Oldham, Simms, Vest, Walker, Watson, Wigfall— Moes-Messrs. Barnwell, Hill, Maxwell, Sparrow

"What are you going to give me for a Christmas pre-

TELEGRAPHIC

Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the gear 1863. ty J. S. THEASERS, in the-Clork's Office oft he District Court of the Confederate States for the Narthern Distric of Georgia.

> SECRETARY SEDDON'S RESIGNATION. RICHMOND, Feb. 8th, 1865.

The correspondence between the President and Mr Seddon is published in the Sentinel this morning, showing that the latter resigned his position as Secretary of War in consequence of a resolution adopted by the Virginia delegation in Congress advising legislation in the Cabinet. by relieving all the present heads. Mr. Seddon says that after such an expression of opinion he could no longer fill the position with a full measure of usefulness to the President or the Confederacy.

The President, in reply, expressed his warm personal regard and official confidence in Mr. Seddon, and discusses at considerable length the relations between the executive and legislative departments of the government. He represents the proposition as one of the rights and privileges ning his present position in reference to the position of of the Confederate Congress, in centrast with the British

Mr. Seddon, in reply, expresses his concurrence in the views presented by the President, but adheres to his

OF THE PEACE COMMISSION. RIGHMOND, Fch. 8th. 1865. New York papers of the 6th inst. contain voluminous telegrams from Washington relative to the result of the conference at Fortress Monroe.

A special dispatch to the Times says that Lincoln informquered yet. Spain had done more than we. Prussia had ed the Commissione's at every point that recognition was atterly out of the question, and that the United States could stop the war only on the aondition and precedent sentiment of the Schate of Morth Carolina. To obtain that the authority of the national government abould be recognized and obeyed over the whole territory of the United States. This point conceded, he assured them that upon every other matter of difference they would be treated with the utmost liberality.

Another telegram says that Mr. Stephens was the most ry officers, to organize these troops as State forces and put | liberal of the rebel deputation. His theory was that if we them in camps of instruction, and to offer the Govern- would but treat with them as an independent nation that

A special dispatch to the Tribune says that Stephens sur-Guards to the moon if their presence there could subscree passed all his old exhibitions of shrewdness, force and Mr. Pool moved to postpone the further consideration of tact, in putting the demands of the Confederacy. [In the midst of them, at the conclusion of one of his points, Lincoln swung forward and interrupted bim, saying, that reminds me of the story of a man in Illinois. The commis. sioners instantly jumped up in a roar of merriment.] After the story was through, Stephens resumed and pursued to the end his statement of the terms on which he thought the rebels would be willing to stop the war. He proposed Mr. Warren moved to insert " twenty five " in place of and urged his crafty scheme of temporary recognition, but on recognition absolutely and temporarily the three com-

> vigorous prosecution of the war. Fernando Wood took the war path on Saturday, Mr. Cox, and other democrats,

Gold opened in New York on Monday at 214. Foster has been superceded by Gilmore in the command

The West Virginia Legisla'ure has passed a bill abolish-

RICHMOND, Feb. 8th, 1865.

further discussed in committee of the whole until the hour

Nothing important was done in the Senate.

FROM RICHMOND. RICHMOND, Feb. 8th, 1865. An official dispatch from Gen. Lee says that the enemy made no advance from their position at Hatcher's Run yesterday; his skirmishers, however, were pushed forward against some points of our lines but made no attack.

PETERSBURG, VA., Feb. 8th, 1865. No fighting occurred to day, and quiet once mere reigned. The enemy still maintains his position at Hatcher's

Our loss will not reach five hundred. The enemy's loss is estimated at treble that number. The dead have all been

buried and the woulded brought from the field. The enemy are erecting observatories on our right. The heavy canuonading yesterday afternoon was caused

THE YANKEE MOVE ON BRANCHVILLE.

A dispatch from Gen. Wheeler, dated Holme's Bridge, Feb. 7th, 8.20, says : My pickets near Blackville this morning were charged by three brigades of cavalry, which drove them beyond the village. Dibbrell's Tennessee brigade being in that vicinity, met and charged the enemy,

driving them back into the village. A dispatch from Branchville this morning says that the enemy have made their appearance slong the South Carolina Railroad beyond the Edisto. They burned a nouse drawn to this side of the rai'road bridge, and the bridge was a terrible and senseless loss of life, for they would 250, making about 2,200 all fold.

seven o'clock yesterday evening. Our troops were with Gen. Winder died suddenly on Monday avening of apo-

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, Feb. 9th, 1865. The Senate adjourned to-day immediately after the jour-In the House the Senate bill authorizing the appoint-

ment of a Commissary General, with the rank of Brigadier General, was passed. During the consideration of the bill. Mr. Baldwin remarked that as chairman of the committee recently engaged in searching investigations, he and the whole committee arrived at the conclusion that the present Commissary General had conducted the business of this matter and proposed waiting till the report of the Com. his office with a degree of system, energy and forecast exhibited by few officers of the government.

Mr. Miles said that if Mr. Northrop could not command success, which was an indispensable qualification at this time, he should give way to some more fortunate person. The tax bill was further considered. Pending a motion to strike out one hundred per cent. additional to the pre-The bill to declare contracts hereafter made, during the sent tax, a substitute of one per cent. was rejected by a reorganization, from lieutenants up to corps comman-

WAR MEETING IN RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, Feb. 9th, 1865. A great war meeting was held at the African Church today. The building was crowded an hour before the time fixed for the meeting, and thousands were unable to gain admittance. The assemblage was addressed in stirring speeches by Senator Hunter, Sheffey, speaker of the House of Belegates, Secretary Benjamin, and Gilmer of North Carolina, and then adjourned until seven c'clock.

Goode, Funstern and Baldwin of the Virginia delegation in Congress. The deportment of the people indicated their full acceptance of the continuation of the war forced upon them by the refusal of Lincoln to negotiate for peace. The following resolutions were submitted by Mr. Shef-

fey, and heartily applauded : Resolved. That events which have occurred during the progress of the war have but confirmed our original determination to strike for our independence, and that with the blessing of God we will never lay down our arms until it

Resolved, secondly, That as we believe our resenross | were answered by our Government. sufficient for the purpose, we do not doubt but that we s

of all causes, to spare neither bleed nor treasure in its maintainance and support.

Resolved, thirdly. That we tender our thanks to our soldiers in the field for their noble efforts in behalf of the country, its rights, and its liberties, and take this occasion to assure them that no effort of ours shall be spared to assist them in maintaining the great cause to which we hereby devote ourselves and cur oll.

shall conduct the war successfully and to that issue, and

we hereby invoke the people, in the name of the holiest

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 9th. 1865. A dispatch from Orangeburg to-day, says that the enemy are in front of the Edisto line, near New Bridge to Duncan Bridge. The main force is said to be near the railroad .-Skirmlsbing is going on to-day at Bennaker's bridge. Our troops are guarding the railroad bridge.

The enemy show no disposition to force a crossing. A dispatch from General Wheeler dated, \$ P. M., the 8th inst., says that a large column of the enemy's infantry struck the railroad at Graham's, and that another column was moving'to strike between Graham's and Blackville .-Kilpatrick is at Blackville, with three brigades.

PORTER'S REPORT OF THE EVACUATION OF CASWELL AND OTHER WORKS NEAR WIL-

nified one-sends the Washington Naval Department If no trial were ever ordered until absolute proof of an account of the evacuation of the forts on Cape Fear guilt were first produced, and by some volunteer prose-River after the fall of Fort Fisher. There were, ac- cutor, the courts might almost as wen be abolished, and cording to his account, eighty-three guns found in them. In his report he says :

We have found here, in each fort, an Armstrong gun, with the "broad arrow" on it, and the name "Sir William Armstrong" marked in full on the trunions. As the British Government claims the exclusive right to nates, do not take hints or ordinary information from use these guns, it would be interesting to know how citizens, as guides to their own observations and inthey came into forts held by the Southern rebels. I find vestigations. They require a responsible allegation that immense quantities of provisions, stores and cloth- and formal proof as the foundation of an inquiry .ing have come through this port into rebeldom. I am They have been led to adopt this reserve probably in almost afraid to mention the amount, but it is enough | consequence of the great number of complaints due to to supply over sixty thousand men. It is all English, ignorance or querulousness, or originating in personal and they have received the last cargo; no more will feeling. These they may always expect; but these

subordinates here, saying that if Forts Fisher and Cas- should, on the contrary, keep an open door for honest well were not held he would have to evacuate Rich- and well-meaning men, and receive with manifesnond. He says most truly, and I should not be at all surprised if he left it at any moment.

We have plenty of force to hold this place against the whole Southern Confederacy. I have two hundred and fifty guns bearing on the narrow strip of land ten matter of personal fend, perhaps deadly quarrel, if where our troops are heavily intrenched. There are avowedly based on a private accusation. Individuals vessels in the river and outside, and we only hope they | will shrink from occupying such a position, if not from will attempt to ratake it.

Ten thousand men in Fort Fisher, with the guns of

the squadron, would hold this place a long time. We find this a better place to catch blockade runners than outside. I had the blockade runners' light obstacles in the way of receiving information as to the out last night, and was obliging enough to answer their signals, whether right or wrong we do not know. Two they escape the annoyance of frivolous complaints, but of them the Stagg and Charlotte, from Bermuda, load- they will succeed also in giving license to the unworthy ed with arms, blankets, shoes, etc., came in and quiet- to do pretty much as the list. ly anchored near the Malvern, and were taken pos-

Lieutenant in the rebel navy, and belonging to the re- many of them entrusted with the most delicate duties, bel Government. A number more are expected, and where the observation of superiors is impossible, and we will, I hope, catch a portion of them. I entrusted where in consequence of the difficulty of detecting irthis duty to Lieutenant Cushing, who performed it with his usual good luck and intelligence. These two such cases, the public eye and ear, must be the princiare very fast vessels and valuable prizes. They threw | pal witnesses and detectives. The observations of the a portion of their papers overboard immediately on citizens ought to be carefully invited, and their state-

finding they were trapped. I enclose a list of guns captured by the navy since the surrender of Fort Fisher, and the names of the different works. This number, added to those taken thus give to a public matter the aspect and character of around Fisher, makes one hundred and sixty eight a private altercation. An officer has no right to thrust guns in all, most of them heavy ones, that have been such an alternative upon a citizen; and its effect is as

I enclose a few papers that may be interesting. The Charlotte brings five English passengers one of them an English army officer. They all came over, as they expressed it, "on a lark," and were making themselves quite "jolly" in the cabin, over their champagne, felicitating themselves on their arrival. The Stag received three shots in her as she ran by our blockading

quadron. Very respectfully Your obedient servant, DAVID D. PORTER. Rear Admiral.

From the Mobile Register.

The Dissaster in Tennesses. A letter has been shown us from a gentleman holding position in the Army of Tennessee which enables him to "speak the card," which letter corroborates, in the main ponits, the unvarying account of the cause of the the other officer, and took of his head. Lamb stooped, Tennessee disaster. We copy such portions as relate and taking off the fallen officer's sword, and waving-

"We shall never have again so good an opportunity to redeem that fairest portion of the Confederacy; and it was causelessly and cowardly thrown away. The enemy had retreated rapidly before us after we crossed the river, until they reached Columbia, where they

"Gen. Hood crossed about five miles above Columbia with two corps, leaving Lee's in front of the enemy, and had, by a rapid march, got almost in their rear, at Spring Hill, before they discovered his movement .- not have taken the works. " But we came here to take They then commenced a precipitate flight, and the head it," said the doctor, "and should have done so any of their trains was passing, when we came in sight of way, sooner or later. In seven hours we had a line of Spring Hill, about 4 o'clock P. M. General Cheatham, advance, was ordered to attack immediately, as was Stewart when he came up. Both, however, from various frivolous excuses, failed to do so, and lay within half a mile of a road and allowed a Yankee army and the fort, and rallying his men, attempted to snatch its train to pass unmolested all night!

"The next day was fought the bloody battle of Franklin, where we tried to drive the Yankees from a position as strong as the one they had at Gettysburg. It | The prisoners well, are about 1,900; sick and dead, ave evacuted the place anyhow. But the grand finale was the scene before Nashville, and a more disgraceful one I never beheld. We had a very strong fine, heavily breas works. The enemy had made four or five assaults bringing forth its legitimate fruit in the shape of comduring the day, and had been easily repulsed all along the line, when, at about half past 3 P. M., they made the record some journals are pleased to make of affairs an attack upon our left center, held by Bate's divis- as they exist here in the Confederacy. If papers perion. Without waiting for the assault, and offering but the slightest resistance, this division, had already disgraced itself a few days before, at Murfreesboro, was the "sloping descent to perdition," we may expect seized with a causeless panie, which soon communicated itself to the whole line, and in ten minutes the army was one wild mass of fugutives.

· Could the enemy but have known our condition and pursued vigorously, not one of us would have escaped, for there was not even an organized regiment for twenty-four hours afterwards to offer resistance. I am heartily sick and disgusted with this army; not that the material is not good enough, but of all miserable, inefficient, good-for-nothing officers the world ever saw, the meanest are right here If there is not a ders, nothing need be expected from it.

NASSAU NEWS,-WERCES .- The Federal cruise: San Jacinto got ashere at No Name Cay, Abaco, on the night of the 31st December, and was totally wrecked. The crew were all taken off by the wreckers and safely landed at Green Turtle Cay.

On the same night and at the same place the brigantine Princess Royal, from Bermuda, bound to this port, was also wrecked. The vessel is totally lost .-Part of the cargo, it is boped, will be saved by the

NAVAL .- II. M, 20 gun screw corvette Wolverine, (Captain Algernon T. R. de Horsey,) from Halifax with special dispatches, arrived in port on the 3rd January. She left the afterneon of the next day for Vera Cruz. .

ANOTHER. VIOLATION OF OUR NEUTRALITY LAWS. -We are informed on unquestionable authority that miles. the steam ship Syren has been chased into the Booby Rocks by a Federal gunboat. Why our commerce is miles. to be intercepted by Federal cruisers being allowed to lay at anchor at our Cays is a question that it is time Bahama Herald, 4th January.

All Obituaries and private publications of every charac

No advertisement, reflecting upon private coracter

MALFRAGANCE IN OFFICE. It is the duty of citizens, when an instance of malversation in office comes under their observation, to make report of the offence to the auperior authorities. It is a duty which they owe to themselves and to their country, and which they may not omit without justly incurring censure. The public interests are savolvednay, in a time like this, the public safety is at stake .and a patriot has no proper election as to the course he

will pursue. This duty of the citizen involves a corresponding duty on the part of the officer to whom offences are to be reported. It the one must inform, the other must listen. If one must indicate the existence of malpractice, the other must promptly investigate and punish.

Nor is the duty of either the citizen or the supervising authority, by any means, confined to such cases of offence as are capable of being presented in the form of an exact accusation, supported by full and technical proof. To lay down such a rule would be to grant impupity to the great majority of criminals. The purpose of an information is to institute and direct inquiry; and its just responsibilities are fully met, if it show probable cause. The magistrate commits for trial on a reasonable suspicion. The grand jury orders a man to stand, even for his life, on ex parte testimony. It is only by an authoritative investigation, that the evidence which unfolds the truth, can usually be discovered ; and this investigation it is the province of Governments to Admiral Porter, in his usual style-not a very dig- undertake and to conduct on its own responsibility.

public justice dec ared at an end.

These principles seem obviously just ; but they are not understoed to be so conceded in practice, in some of the departments of Government. Some of the officers whe are charged with the oversight of subordiare not sufficient to justify them in repulsing the ap-We picked up a telegram from General Lee to his proaches of all eitizens indiscriminately. They which they may make for the good of public service. An investigation which the Government may conduct without inconvenience, is oftimidity, at least from that preference for quiet which most men feel. Especially will they do this when they are not personally possessed of proof adequate to the full establishment of their opinions. Officers who place malversation of their subordinates, will find indeed that

Such impunity must operate very disadvantageously in a community circumstanced as is ours. An infinite The Stagg was commanded by Rich'd H. Gayle, a number of public agents are scattered over the country regularities, there can be but little responsibility. In ments respectfully listened to and duly weighed. They must not be told to be silent unless they shall choose to volunteer as positive accuser and formal prosecutor, and we have said, to secure license and impunity to clien-

lowing extracts:

A Yankee correspondent writing from Fort Fish

ders, even to such as excite the most open disgust.

General Whiting and Col. Lamb, the officers in com mand of Fisher, were evidently selected for their tenacity and courage. They are both wounded, the General only seriously wounded, and Lamb also severely in hip. with a paralysis of the lower extremities. He is represented by his men as something of a lion. During the preparatory cannonading, his men say that he mounted one of the traverses and waved his sword in defiance at our men of war. At the same instant a shell struck both high in the air, cried out, "Come on, you Yankee sons of b-s!" This exhibition of adolescent rage is

told to show the courage of the colonel.

In conversation with one of the medical officers, General Whiting remarked that if he had had the control we should not have been permitted to throw up intrenchments across the peninsula. When he saw we were allowed to intrench he regarded the capture of the fort only a question of time. "I don't see what they were about," he said, referring to the treeps of Gen. Bragg. Had my guns not been dismounted, you would intrenchments across which would have enabled us to

Gen. Whiting, it is said, mounted the works when he saw the first flog unfurled on the second traverse of away the guidon from the hand of the Union soldier .-At that instant he received his wound, which disabled him for the remainder of the fights

which has caused some papers to drift into a regular channel of abuse of our Confederate authorities is now sist in their abuse of President Davis' Administration and continue to assert that the country is gliding along nothing more than to see a growth of confidence in the

North, and a rapid revival of the war spirit. These vapory effusions of inconsiderate scribblers are being bailed at the North as evidences of disruption among us, and already they are believing that our cause is weakening, and that a little increase of energyon their part will throw the scale inevitably in their tavor .- Augusta Register.

GEN. BEAUREGARD'S OPINION .- General Beauregard, in private conversation, says one of the main causes of the defeat of our army at Nashville was the want of bayonets. The hayonet is something on which a soldier can rely with confidence, and which in turn infuses confidence in the soldier.

The General also stated (says the " Constitutionalist ") " that it was impossible to have an efficient army -ope with which anything could be done-unless the

troops are well clothed, well shod and well fed." Many years of service-brilliant and fraught with honors—have taught this distinguished officer what are

the eauses which give morale to an army. A table of distances of interest just now : From Branchville to Charleston, sixty-miles.

From Branchville to Kingsville, forty-five miles. From Branchville to Florence, one hundred and eight From Branchville to Columbia, sixty eight miles. From Branchville to Augusta, seventy-five miles.

From Branchville to Wilmington, two hundred and six-From Branchville to Charlotte, one hundred and seven ty-four miles. From Charleston to Florence, one hundred and two From Wilmington to Florence, one nundred and seven

COFFEE CAKES .- Take some rice that has been bolled soft, twice as much flour as rice, a little fine Indian meal. and a little yeast. Mix it with water, and let it rise over night; this will make a fine biscuit for breakfast.